

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

# INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT

Ceskomoravská Kolben Danek Plant in  
Blansko

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1. The CKD plant in Blansko manufactures water turbines, engine blocks, wheels for tractors, gear wheels, radiators, sig, large high-pressure boilers, castings of various sizes from non-ferrous metals, equipment for sugar refineries, etc. The plant is located along the Punkva River in a valley three kilometers long. Both sides of the valley are flanked by wooded hills. A private railroad track from the plant connects with the main line of the Czech Railroads, Brno-Moravská-Trebova.
2. The plant owns two locomotives, one driven by steam, the other by oil, four trucks, two passenger cars and 15 battery-powered lorries. A railroad track runs through the entire factory, and even through the various halls and divisions. All raw material and all finished products are transported by rail. The electric power for the plant is supplied by the power plant in Oslavany. The plant has two transformer stations, one serving the foundry, the other the locksmith workshops.
3. During 1950, the plant was supplied with pig iron from Holland; in the beginning of 1951, iron in large ingots came from the USSR. Foundry workers were not satisfied with the ingots from the USSR because they were inferior in quality to the iron which had been used and resulted in considerable waste. The USSR supplies about 70 freight-car loads, the period in which this amount of iron is shipped is not mentioned. Ingots were also supplied by the Vitkovice Iron Works. I had an opportunity to see labels indicating the origin of shipment of lead blocks, and noted that they came from Mexico.
4. The water turbines produced at the plant were exported to the USSR. In 1950 the plant manufactured four water turbines for Bulgaria. Tractor engine blocks were made for the Ceska Zbrojovka (CZ) plant, National Corporation in Lisen near Brno. The plant was capable of producing 18 engine blocks and 30 tractor wheels per day with three work shifts. The factory also manufactured high pressure boilers, six centimeters thick and 250-350 centimeters in diameter, weighing 14,000 kilograms. The production capacity was two boilers per month. During a two-month period the plant also produced 12 smaller boilers, each weighing about 2,000 kilograms; During 1950 the plant also produced two large frames, each weighing 26,000 kilograms, which were exported to the Soviet Union.
5. The directorate of the plant is located right in the plant itself. The plant has 2,000 employees, 800 of whom are specialists, 600 helpmen and 600 administrative and technical employees. In addition to this personnel, the plant employs approximately 200 prisoners. The highest wage of a skilled worker is 8,000 crowns (Kcs) per month, the highest wage of an unskilled worker is 4,000 crowns per month. Approximately 60% of the workers are Communist Party members. The plant operates

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in two shifts, from 6 am to 2 pm and from 2 pm to 10 pm; however, the foundry operates with three shifts. The vast majority of the employees are not satisfied with the present Communist regime, the Communist Party members not excluding. The dissatisfaction of the workers is expressed mainly in words; any open resistance is not possible because of the fear of arrests and imprisonment.

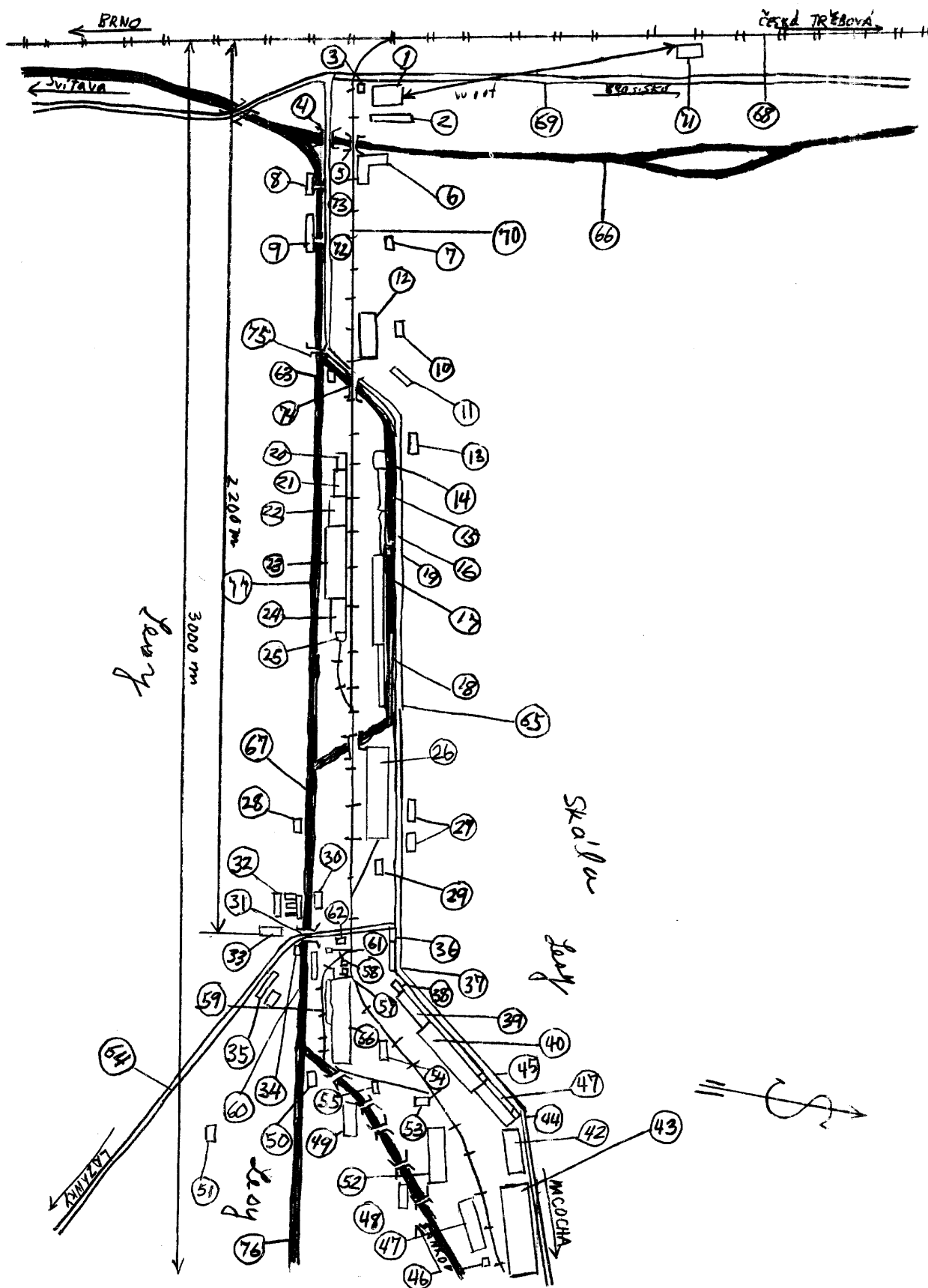
6. The plant has its own factory guards consisting of eight members who wear blue uniforms. They are posted at the gates. The workers' militia is on duty only at night; its members are dressed in blue overalls with red armbands. The militia is armed with rifles.
7. The plant has its own firemen and fire engine. There are 16 firemen at the plant. The whole plant is equipped with fire hydrants.

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ENCLOSURE (A): Sketch of the CKD Plant in Blansko with Legend

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## SKETCH OF THE CKD PLANT IN BLANSKO WITH LEGEND



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ENCLOSURE (A)

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## Legend

- 1... A single-story brick building, 40 x 24 meters, with an asphalt roof. Chassis for passenger cars and trucks are produced in this building.
- 2... Materials storehouse. An open shed, 50 x 3 meters, with a wooden roof. Crossbars and iron bars are stored here.
- 3... Coal storehouse. A single-story brick building with a tile roof.
- 4... A wooden bridge across the Svitava river.
- 5... An iron bridge across the Svitava river
- 6... The plant canteen. A single-story brick building, 24 x 16 x 10 meters in which the apartment of the Director of Water Constructions /sic/ is located.
- 7... An open shed, 4 x 4 meters, with a wooden roof. The shed houses a crusher.
- 8... A brick building, 20 x 8 meters, with a tile roof. The office of the plant directorate is located on the second floor of this building
- 9... Automobile garages. A brick building, 38 x 6 meters, with an "eternite" roof.
- 10... Storehouse for old machines. A wooden building, 16 x 8 meters, with an asphalt roof.
- 11... Two private single-story apartment houses, 20 x 8 meters.
- 12... Storehouse for old machines. A building, 60 x 14 meters, which is partly one-storied, partly two storied. The employees of the plant are accommodated on the first floor of the two-story section.
- 13... Single-story brick building, 20 x 8 meters, with an "eternite" roof. The apartment of the security officer, Mr (fnu) Smatera is located in this building.
- 14... Workshop for sheet-metal cutting. A single-story brick building, 10 x 10 meters. Metal-sheets are cut by electrical and autogenous machines.
- 15... Storehouse for sheet-metal. A single-story iron and wood construction with a tar roof.
- 16... A new two-story building 25 x 6 meters with a tile roof. The gate is located on the ground floor; offices on the first floor.
- 17... A single-story brick building, 40 x 25 meters, part of which is two-storied. Here the factory kitchen, canteen and expediting office are located.
- 18... A forge located in a brick and wood building, 30 x 8 meters.
- 19... A reinforced concrete bridge over the Punkva river.
- 20... A large forge. A single-story brick building with a tile roof. Large pneumatic hammers are located in this forge.
- 21... A single-story building, 15 x 12 meters, where various parts are tin-plated.
- 22... A small machine tool hall. A single-story building, 30 x 18 meters, with an "eternite" roof. The workshop is equipped with lathes, grinders and drilling machines.
- 23... /not identified/
- 24... Cabinet maker's workshop. A single-story building 16 x 10 meters, with a tile roof.
- 25... Open sheds with machine saws for cutting material.
- 26... A new plant hall, 60 x 30 x 15 meters, built during 1949. A steel and concrete building with large windows; the roof is shaped like double reversed V and is made of glass.
- 27... Prisoners' barrack, 30 x 12 meters. There are 200 prisoners in this camp.
- 28... Civilian flour mills.
- 29... Storehouse for wood shavings, a single-story brick building 12 x 8 meters, with a tile roof.
- 30... A wooden barrack, 14 x 10 meters, with a tile roof. Inside is a band-saw.
- 31... Railway bridge
- 32... A camp for the employees. A single-story frame building, 30 x 12 meters.
- 33... Apprentices' boarding-house located on the second floor of a house, 22 x 16 meters with a tile roof. The house was built in 1949.
- 34... An apartment house. A single-story brick building 8 x 6 meters, with a tile roof.
- 35... A former kaolin factory which is not in use at present.
- 36... A two-story brick building, 25 x 10 meters, with a tile roof. Inside is a gate-keeper's lodge, office, laboratory, a guards' room for the factory militia, firemen's guards' room and a tool storehouse.
- 37... Locksmith's workshop. A single-story brick building, 20 x 10 meters.
- 38... Workshop for the production of radiator frames. A single-story brick building, 10 x 10 meters.
- 39... Large machine tool hall for the production of steel models. The hall is equipped with lathes, grinders and drilling machines. It is a two-story brick building, 28 x 14 meters with tile roof.
- 40... Foundry. A brick building, 40 x 16 meters, with a glass roof.
- 41... Forwarding department and storehouse for tubs. A wooden barrack, 30 x 10 meters, with a tar-paper roof.
- 42... Enameling workshop. A single-story barrack, 25 x 20 meters, with a tile roof.
- 43... New foundry under construction; it is to be finished this year /1951/. The construction is of steel, 55 x 28 meters.
- 44... Small oven for enameling. A brick construction, 3 x 4 meters.
- 45... Enamel storehouse. A brick building, 4 x 3 meters.
- 46... Crushers for large casting-wastes; a steel construction, with a sheet-metal roof and without side-walls, 7 x 7 meters.
- 47... Storehouse for wooden models. A two-story brick building 40 x 16 meters, with a flat concrete roof.
- 48... Timber storehouse. An open shed, 40 x 18 meters with a wooden roof.
- 49... Canteen. A single-story wooden barrack, 30 x 12 meters.
- 50... The plant's power plant for the foundry. This power plant has its own water basin. The power plant is a concrete building, 10 x 10 meters, with a tile roof.
- 51... Waterworks for the plant's needs, located on a hill about 60 meters above the plant.
- 52... Modelling hall. A single-story building, 25 x 16 meters with a tile roof.
- 53... Boiler room serving the modelling hall. A single-story concrete construction, 10 x 8 meters.
- 54... A single-story house, 10 x 8 meters, containing apartments for the employees of the plant.
- 55... Coal storehouse. A wooden barrack, 8 x 4 meters, with a tar paper roof.
- 56... Foundry. A concrete hall; the roof of which is shaped like two reversed V's one with a glass, the other with a tar paper roof. Inside are movable cranes and five large compressors.
- 57... Tar storehouse. An open shed with a wooden roof.

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## Legend (continued)

- 58... A two-story building, 12 x 8 meters, with a tile roof. The offices of the plant are in this building.
- 59... A concrete building, 35 x 7 meters, for the cleaning of castings.
- 60... A single-story concrete construction, 16 x 8 meters, containing garages for the locomotives.
- 61... Oil depot. A single-story wooden house, 8 x 5 meters.
- 62... Canteen, A two story brick building 14 x 8 meters.
- 63... Power plant for the big foundry. This power plant has its own water basin. A two-story concrete construction, 10 x 10 meters, with a tile roof.
- 64... A district road leading to the town of Luzanky.
- 65... A state-highway made of asphalt leading to the Macocha caverns.
- 66... The Svitava river.
- 67... The Punkva river.
- 68... Double-track railway Brno - Ceska Trebova.
- 69... State highway to Blansko; made of asphalt.
- 70... Railway branch line connecting the plant with the main railroad.
- 71... Railway station in Blansko.
- 72... Railway bridge across the Punkva river.
- 73... Wooden bridge
- 74... Railroad bridge.
- 75... Railroad bridge
- 76... Artificial water basin for the power plant. The water basin is 1.5 meter wide and 1 meter deep.
- 77... Artificial water basin for the power plant, 1.5 meter wide and 1 meter deep.